

CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. An image apparatus accommodated in a body and provided with a camera that images a subject person, the image apparatus comprising:

a smoked glass arranged in front of an image lens of the camera accommodated in the body, and

a dummy lens arranged in the periphery of the image lens and in a position that can be viewed by the subject person.

2. An image apparatus accommodated in a body and provided with a camera that images a subject person, the image apparatus comprising:

a shielding member arranged in front of an image lens of the camera accommodated in the body, and

a dummy lens arranged in the periphery of the image lens and in a position that can be seen by the subject person.

3. A face authentication apparatus including:

storage means that stores a respective face picture of a plurality of registrants, a camera that is accommodated in a body and images a face of a subject person, and

authentication means that processes a face picture, imaged by the camera, of the subject person and authenticates whether the subject person is a registrant, whose face picture is stored in the storage means, the face authentication apparatus comprising

a shielding member arranged in front of an image lens of the camera

accommodated in the body, and

a dummy lens arranged below the image lens and in a position that can be seen by the subject person.

4. An image apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the shielding member comprises a color filter.

5. An image apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the shielding member comprises smoked glass.

6. An image apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the shielding member comprises a color filter.

7. An image apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the shielding member comprises smoked glass.

8. A method of manufacturing an authenticating apparatus comprising:
arranging an imaging lens to obtain an image of a subject to be authenticated;

disposing a shielding member over the imaging lens; and
positioning a dummy lens in a periphery of the imaging lens.

9. A method of manufacturing according to claim 8, wherein the dummy lens is positioned below the imaging lens.

10. A method of manufacturing according to claim 8, wherein the shielding member is one of smoked glass or a color filter.

11. A method of controlling access comprising:

storing reference image data;

obtaining subject image data using a camera having an imaging lens shielded from view by the subject and a dummy lens visible to the subject in the periphery of the imaging lens; and

controlling access based on a degree of similarity between the subject image data and respective reference image data.

12. A method of controlling access according to claim 11, wherein the subject is a person, and the subject image data is obtained with the subject looking downward toward the dummy lens.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the image obtained is of a part of the person's face.

14. A method of obtaining an image of a subject for authentication comprising:

arranging a camera having an imaging lens to obtain an image of a subject to be authenticated;

disposing a shielding member over the imaging lens such that the imaging lens is difficult for the subject to view;

positioning a dummy lens in a periphery of the imaging lens so as to be in

view of the subject; and

obtaining an image of the subject using the camera.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the imaging lens is shielded from view of the subject.

16. A method according to claim 14, wherein the subject is a person, and the image obtained is of a part of the person's face.